

HB 1864 -- ADMISSION OF ILLEGAL ALIENS TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Nolte

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Higher
Education by a vote of 8 to 3.

This bill prohibits the admission of unlawfully present aliens to public institutions of higher education. The registrar of each institution must certify to the appropriations committees of the General Assembly that the institution has not knowingly admitted any illegal alien before the approval of any appropriations.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there are both legal and policy reasons why a bill is needed. Taking taxpayer money to subsidize the education of a person who cannot be hired legally after graduation is a problem. Colleges should not enable illegal aliens to stay because that creates liability for the college.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Nolte; Kris Kobach, University of Missouri-Kansas City; and Mid-America Immigration Reform Coalition.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the issue requires a more comprehensive approach. The bill could further hurt young people who were brought to this country by their parents.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri National Education Association.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst